for ensuring implementation of the recommendation. As per the information available, Tripartite Committees for the purpose have already been set up in six States. States have also been requested to keep the Central Government informed about the Status of implementation. So far two States have sent their report in this regard. States have been reminded to expedite their reports.

*74 [*Transferred to the 20th March*, 1990]

Discouragement of smoking in trains

*75. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted the principle of gradual discouragement of smoking in trains ; if so, what steps are being taken in this direction ;

(b) whether Government propose to use the internal TV Circuits on the Railway Stations to project videos on the harmful efforts of smoking ; and

(c) whether Government also propose to impose a ban on the sale of cigarettes on the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The existing policy is that no person is permitted to smoke in a railway compartment without the consent of his fellow passengers in the same compartment. Besides, smoking has been prohibited in suburban trains, and in the airconditioned area of AC Sleeper and AC Chair Cars. In Second Class, earmarking of a sleeper coach for non-smokers is being experimented on some trains.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal.

Revamping of the Public Distribution System

*76. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to revamp the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enlarge the list of items for sale through the fair price shops; and

(d) if so, what are the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The administration of the public Distribution System is primarily the respeonsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. They also have powers under the Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations.

Efforts are made on a continual basis to strengthen and streamline the system. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time advising the regarding effective coordination among the agencies engaged in PDS, involvement of consumers' representatives in the vigil on its functioning, strict enforcement of the provisions of law, better coverage of population, introduction of mobile shops, etc. The Central Government also provides assistance to the concerned State Governments/ U.T. Administrations under selected schemes for remote and hilly areas.

(c) and (d) The States and Union Territories have been advised from time to time to include more items of mass consumption for sale through

fair price shops. Several States have included additional items such as pulses, tea, salt, soap, matches, coarse grains, etc., for distribution through fair price shops.

New Deal to Farmers

*77. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give a new deal to the farmers by way of (i) a new formula to fix remunerative prices for their produce, (ii) provision of cheap and timely credit to them; (iii) making the Crop Loan Insurance Scheme more effective and beneficial in time, (iv) purposeful implementation of land reforms, (v) construction of a network of godowns in the rural areas to prevent distress sales and (vi) investing about 50 per cent of the 8th Plan outlays in agriculture and the rural areas as stated by the Prime Minister as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 1990; and

(b) if so, the outline and time schedule of each scheme?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are as under:—

(i) The Government has appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao to comprehensively review the methodology for determining the cost of production to make these realistic. The Committee will submit its interim report by 15th March, 1990, and its full report within a period of four months.

(ii) A multi-agency approach has been adopted as a National policy for providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers, particularly in the small and marginal categories, and other weaker section through cooperative credit institutions, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks. Agriculture credit is provided at concesnsional rates of interest.

(iii) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is under implementation wherever the State Governments have come forward to praticipate, covering wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses. All farmers aviling of crop loans for growing these crops are eligible for insurance coverage under the scheme Further, continuance of the Scheme beyond Rabi 1989-90 is under consideration.

(iv) The Government is considering a proposal to include land reform laws in the Ninth schedule of the constitution of India and a Constitutional Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the current Session of the Parliament.

(v) The Government is implementing a scheme for setting up of rural godowns to prevent distress sales of agricultural produce. A Master Plan for construction of warehouses and godowns is under preparation and is to be finalised by the end of March, 1990.

(vi) Investing about 50% of the plan outlays in agriculture and rural areas will be kept in view at the time of formulation and finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Reconstitution of DRUCC & ZRUCCS

*78. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reconstitute Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees and Zonal Railway Users